



RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS Chief & Council Member Meeting
Wednesday September 1, 2021
Drum Room- RRFNs
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chief Robin McGinnis
Councillor Will McGinnis
Councillor Gary Medocone

Councillor Leona McGinnis
Councillor Karen Oster Bombay

REGRETS:

Councillor Jason Wilson

OTHER:

Lauren Hyatt- EA
Laverne Caul
Gloria Short
Ruthann Taylor
Carolyn McGinnis

Dorothy Hutikka
Casey Oster
Sancia Medicine
Annie McGinnis

Meeting Opened 5:38p.m.

Review from Previous Meeting & Update: Chief R. McGinnis

Meeting Protocol Reminder:

Chief R. McGinnis reminded Band Members that everyone attending the meeting will have 10 minutes allotted to them to express any concerns or comments. It was also stated that these monthly meetings will be for Band members only and meetings concerning the Community will be separately scheduled. Members were reminded that that ALL are to adhere to the Client and Community Code of Conduct, and that no video recordings of the meeting were permitted. The Chief also reminded Members that if they are unable to make a meeting that questions or concerns can be made in writing (email or other) for C&C's review.

Updates:

Ford & Rickford Visit to Community & Meet and Greet with Jagmeet Singh

- Premier Ford and MPP Rickford visited RRFNs Community on August 25th. This visit was for them to meet RRFNS C&C. It was a short but productive visit where the Long-Term Care Facility award, the RRFNs Pre-post Treatment Facility and the Bridge Purchase were discussed, and both agreed to provide letters of support for these endeavours. The Chief also met with Jagmeet Singh in Thunder Bay on August 27th and secured his support for these projects too.

Community Programming:

- The Grand Opening of the **Youth Centre** will be happening as soon as there is internet up at the facility
- Backpacks were distributed to those who signed up for the program.
- A couple of trips were held to Hoopla Island, and a very successful Community Camping Trip was had.
- 40 Naloxene and personal care kits were given out at Rainy Lake Square for Overdose Awareness Day.
- The Hot lunch program is available for sign up again the deadline is September 6th submit applications.
- Cat Spaying & Neutering: Due to the overwhelming number of cats in the community, a proposal was submitted to the Rainy River First Nations Trust to have resident's cat(s) spayed or neutered at no cost to residents.
- Anyone wishing to have their cat(s) spayed or neutered were asked to contact Ruthann or Patrick at the band office for further information.
- There are many Jobs available at RRFNS: these were posted on the RRFNs website, One Feather and the job board in the Band Office.
- A 4-wheeler Safety Course will be held soon in conjunction with Treaty Three Police. Notice will go out when dates are solidified.
- All of management and C&C will be meeting with TAG Communications firm to start working on a cohesive and inclusive Communications strategy for the Nation.
- Chief and Council held their Strategic Planning Session in August to identify their goals for the next year of their Term and sessions will be held in September to review the Governance Manual.
- The Residency Code is being reviewed by Chief and Council. It is in its very early stages and when fleshed out more, it will be presented to the community in various meetings for input and review.

Education:

- RRFNS is in the middle of negotiations with the Rainy River District School Board to finalize a Tuition agreement with them. Some things have been highlighted within this agreement are - addressing racism in schools, including transportation, EA services, bus services, Tuition costs, having a First Nation advocacy individual at Board Meetings and setting up a Tuition Agreement Review Committee.

Public Works Department:

- The RRFNs Public Works Department has an **after hours call number** available for housing, maintenance and water/sewer needs. This was posted on the Facebook page and is on the website and magnets for fridges with the number will be coming soon.
- Members were reminded that the RRFNs Households served by the Water Treatment Plant **remain on a precautionary boil water advisory**. It was asked that people limit their water usage as much as possible as work continues to address the issue.
- RRFNs have been approved for funding for a new **Lift- Station**
- New Water Treatment Plant: It is estimated that shovels will be in the ground by March 2022 to begin construction on this.

Drug Strategy:

- Different aspects of our Drug Strategy are being fleshed out:
 1. The Drug Testing Policy is being Updated and reviewed.
 2. RRFNs Admin working with Poundmaker treatment facility outside of Edmonton to create a Service and Training Protocol.
 3. A service protocol is being created with Macoons Transition house outside of Winnipeg.
 4. The COVID isolation trailers have been converted into a 4 bed pre and post treatment facility. When positions for this facility have been filled, opening will follow shortly after.
 5. Neighbourhood Watch has been discussed as vandalism is happening in various places around the Community. Terms of reference for this is being created.
 6. A funding proposal for a pre-post treatment facility was submitted to infrastructure Canada.

Fire Team:

- There are currently 11 people on the on-call fire team list.

Bill C92:

- Funding has been received to begin the devolution of RRFNs' relationship with Weechi and to start the development of the Rainy River First Nations Child Care Law. The Province and ISC have been informed of this along with the Weechi Board. RRFNS presented our own Service Agreement to Weechi, that has been outdated for 11 years. The Province and Weechi will be held accountable for this.

- An external review of the RRFNs CCP program is being conducted to identify internal efficiencies and deficiencies to ensure Members are being served in the best way.

Ziibi Anishinaabe Investments:

- A notice was sent out via One Feather and hand delivered to the Community with Job Opportunities: the current positions available with Ziibi are:
 1. CEO
 2. And 2 operational Analyst Trainees.

SNC Lavolin:

- Meetings have been held with a company called SNC Lavolin who have access to Ground Penetrating Radar to help identify the graves of Residential School Children. Chief McGinnis met with the Agency One Chiefs about this- and some concerns were raised. These will be addressed, and the grave identification will proceed.

Membership Code:

- At the last meeting many concerns were raised regarding the Membership Code. C&C acknowledged these concerns and are planning a separate Community Consultation to discuss the code either in late September or October. Notice will be posted when a date is solidified.

New Band Office:

- A landscaping and beautification plan for the New Band Office is being worked. This will also include installing new Cameras and lighting. The official opening date is pending the date of completion of an eagle statue that has been commissioned for the building.

Updates From Previous Meeting:

- Maps and records of graveyards are being looked for.
- Programs will make their reports public to inform the Community on all that they do and are planning.
- C&C will be accepting written requests to have Manager attend a Community Meeting for a specific matter, if needed.
- Treaty 3 Police will start to be more present in Communities when they are deemed an essential service by hopefully early next year.

Member Questions and Concerns:

Starlink:

A Member enquired as to whether this was a service available for the Community. Chief McGinnis explained that the company provides service on a first come first serve basis. However, he also mentioned that a proposal has been submitted for broadband, but that he will investigate whether RRFNs funding can be used to install fibre on the Community.

Long-Term Care Facility in Atikokan:

A member informed C&C of a Long-Term Care Facility in Atikokan, which they believe should be visited to gain ideas for the RRFNs model. Chief McGinnis stated that there will be consultation held with Elders and those future Elders to determine what they want to see in this Facility.

\$5,000.00 Off Reserve Renovations:

A member enquired as to whether this fund was renewed. Chief McGinnis stated that it would be on Council's agenda for discussion on September 7th.

Elders' Coordinator:

Elders requested that an Elders' coordinator be appointed to look after Elders i.e.: be a resource for them, plan programming, see that they are taken care of and ensure their public spaces are being respected. Chief McGinnis responded that this was a great idea that would be discussed at the C&C table.

Youth Council:

The idea of a Youth Council was revitalized. Chief McGinnis stated that C&C are in support of such an initiative. Suggesting a naming contest, giving them their own concession stand to look after at the new Youth Centre etc. This idea will definitely be explored.

6:30PM Regular Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting Date: October 6th, 2021

6:35 Requested In camera Session begins.

7:02 Meeting Adjourned

The minutes dated Wednesday September 1st, 2021, have been reviewed and approved at a duly convened meeting dated: October 6th, 2021

Date signed: October 14th, 2021

Quorum: 3



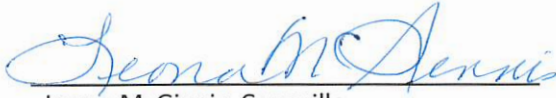
Robin McGinnis, Chief



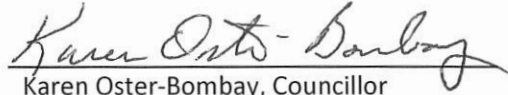
Willie James McGinnis, Councillor



Gary Medicine, Councillor



Leona McGinnis, Councillor



Karen Oster-Bombay, Councillor

Jason Wilson, Councillor